IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of transmitting a ~~plurality of policy rules~~ policy rule, ~~each of~~ which describes a condition and an action, from a policy server to a network node that is connected to the policy server via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning ~~the plurality of policy rules with their identifiers~~ a newly entered policy rule with an identifier;

~~transmitting the policy rules with their assigned identifier to said network node: and~~

detecting a policy ~~rules~~ that depends on ~~a~~ the newly entered policy rule or on ~~any of~~ which ~~a~~ the newly entered policy rule depends ~~when transmitting a new policy rule or rules to said network node as additional one or ones~~,

transmitting the newly entered policy rule with the assigned identifier to said network node,

wherein, ~~with regard to the policy rules that depend on a new policy rule or on any of which a new policy rule depends, detected by said detection step,~~ if the detected policy rule has not been transmitted to said network node, the identifier thereof and the condition and the action described

therein are transmitted with the newly entered policy rule to

said network node; and if the detected policy rule has been

transmitted with the newly entered policy rule to said network

node, the identifier thereof is transmitted to said network

node, but the condition and the action described therein are

not transmitted.

    2.   (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a

plurality of policy rules policy rule according to claim 1,

wherein, with regard to the policy rules that depend on a new

policy rule or on any of which a new policy rule depends,

detected by said detection step, if the detected policy rule

has not been transmitted to said network node, the identifier

thereof, the condition and the action described therein, and a

first instruction that specifies network interface information

on said network node to put the detected policy rule into

action are transmitted to said network node; and if the

detected policy rule has been transmitted to said network

node, the identifier thereof and a second instruction that

specifies network interface information on said network node

to put the <u>detected</u> policy rule into action are transmitted to said network node.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a ~~plurality of policy rules~~ <u>policy rule</u> according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

retaining the policy rules transmitted to said network node in storage of said policy server; and

checking the transmitted policy rules retained in said storage to see whether the policy ~~rules~~ <u>rule</u> that ~~depend~~ <u>depends</u> on ~~a new~~ <u>the newly entered</u> policy rule or on ~~any of~~ which ~~a new~~ <u>the newly entered</u> policy rule depends, detected by said detection step, ~~have~~ <u>has</u> been transmitted to said network node.

4.   A method of transmitting a ~~plurality of policy rules~~ <u>policy rule</u> according to claim 1, wherein said step of detecting <u>a</u> policy ~~rules~~ <u>rule</u> that depend<u>s</u> on ~~a new~~ <u>the</u> <u>newly entered</u> policy rule or on ~~any of~~ which ~~a new~~ <u>the newly</u> <u>entered</u> policy rule depends detects a policy rule that references a variable defined in said newly entered policy

rule or a policy rule that defines a variable that is used as a condition in said newly entered policy rule.

5. A method of transmitting a ~~plurality of policy rules~~ policy rule according to claim 1, wherein said network node is connected to a proxy server that converts the ~~plurality of policy rules~~ rule transmitted from said policy server into ~~those~~ a rule in form that ~~they~~ the converted rule can be executed on said network node and said network node receives the converted rules in this form.

6. A method of transmitting a plurality of policy rules, each of which describes a condition and an action, from a policy server to a network node that is connected to the policy server via a network, the method comprising the steps of:

~~generating a plurality of policy rules;~~

~~assigning the policy rules their identifier;~~

transmitting part of or all of the policy rules with their assigned identifier to said network node;

seeing whether the condition described in a policy

rule to be removed is exclusive with the conditions described

in other rules ~~said plurality of policy rules~~ when removing at

least one of the policy rules transmitted to said network

node;

transmitting a request to remove a policy rule with

its identifier that is specified by the operator to said

network node, provided the condition of the policy rule is

exclusive.

7.   (Canceled).